

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

February 20, 2018

The City Council also sits as the Lemon Grove Housing Authority, Lemon Grove Sanitation District Board, Lemon Grove Roadway Lighting District Board, and Lemon Grove Successor Agency.

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Vasquez called the meeting to order.

City Councilmembers present: Mayor Racquel Vasquez, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Jones, Councilmember Jennifer Mendoza, Councilmember David Arambula, and Councilmember Matt Mendoza. City Councilmembers absent: None.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scout Brandon

### **Presentations:**

**Lemon Grove History Minute #13** – George Gastil shared remembering when the City incorporated because his mother was elected to the LaMesa/Spring Valley School Board on the same day. He said he moved his family to Lemon Grove in 1994, coming for affordable housing but staying for the schools. In 1998, he was elected to the School Board and served ten years; and then he was elected to the City Council in 2008 and served two terms and dealt with budget crises. Today Mr. Gastil expressed satisfaction with the community garden.

**Introduction New Employee** – Jimmy Porfirio-Vilchis, Facilities Tech I, was introduced by Dave Huey, Community Services Superintendent. Mr. Porfirio-Vilchis said it is a pleasure to be working for the City of Lemon Grove.

### **Public Comments:**

Brenda Hammond, Lemon Grove, talked about volunteering for medical research and complained about vehicles emitting smoke causing coughing.

Cathy Hilton, County Health, Commission on Status of Women and Children, announced the Commission focuses on homelessness, domestic violence, and human trafficking. She invited everyone to the Third Annual Symposium on April 21 at Qualcomm stadium with keynote speaker Senator Toni Atkins.

Mary Anne Soto, Lemon Grove, commented on an injured dog and bad customer service, so she urged the City Council end the contract with Chula Vista for animal control services.

Paula LaBond, Lemon Grove, conveyed traffic safety needs to be addressed at 3100 and 3200 blocks of Sweetwater Road, noting after the fatal accident in May 2017 there have been eight more accidents. Mayor Pro Tem Jones confirmed California Highway patrols a portion of the area, and there are County signs.

**1. Consent Calendar**

- A. Ratification Payment of Demands**
- B. Waive Full Text Reading of All Ordinances on the Agenda**
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2018-3553 Designating Kristen S. Steinke and Matthew C. Starr as Deputy City Attorneys**

**Action:** A motion was made by J. Mendoza and seconded to approve Consent Calendar items 1 A, B, and C as presented. The motion passed by the following vote:  
**Ayes:** Vasquez, Jones, J. Mendoza, Arambula, M. Mendoza  
**Noes:** None

**2. Ordinance No. 2018-448 Adding Chapter 2.36 (Planning Commission) to the Lemon Grove Municipal Code**

City Attorney James Lough explained two options for re-establishing the Planning Commission. Option One provides for four-year staggered terms, and Option Two is similar to the past Municipal Code with three-year rolling terms.

Councilmember J. Mendoza clarified the staggered terms of office, interview process, costs and stated preference for Option One with provision for compensation.

Councilmember Arambula favors Option One.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones explained his support to restructure the Planning Commission to the Community Advisory Commission was nothing personal but instead was done for budgetary reasons and to streamline the application process to foster economic development. So in his opinion, re-establishing the Planning Commission is a step backwards.

Mayor Vasquez thanked the members for their comments, observing the City Council is moving forward.

**Action:** Councilmember J. Mendoza moved and Councilmember Arambula seconded to introduce Ordinance No. 2018-448 Adding Chapter 2.36 (Planning Commission) to the Lemon Grove Municipal Code as amended by adding an option for compensation to Section 2.36.070 Compensation, Travel and Training Expenses if authorized by the City Council, with title read by City Attorney James Lough. The motion passed by the following vote:  
**Ayes:** Vasquez, J. Mendoza, Arambula  
**Noes:** Jones, M. Mendoza

**3. Planning Commission Analysis**

City Manager Lydia Romero outlined the timeline to initiate the Planning Commission. She reiterated Title 17 (Zoning Ordinance) will be presented for determination of the authority of the Planning Commission. Manager Romero stated staff recommends allowing all current applications to proceed under the current practice and any new applications go to the Planning Commission per the new established authority.

David De Vries, Development Services Director, described how costs were determined, utilizing 30 projects since dissolution of the Planning Commission. He itemized items going only to the Planning Commission unless appealed and items going to both governing bodies, particularly with peak times. Mr. De Vries identified staff involvement with Planning Commissioners, applicants, City Council members, extra meetings and staff costs.

Councilmember J. Mendoza questioned the estimated costs, specifically the number of meetings, engineer and fire marshal attendance, member training costs by staff and similar reports. She emphasized positives of re-establishing the Planning Commission to free up the City Council to work on other items such as responsible beverage sales, tobacco, recreation council, homeless, and shorter Council meetings.

Councilmember M. Mendoza asked if incurred costs would reduce other budgeted items, and City Manager Romero responded 60% of costs are recoverable. He inquired about staff attendance at Planning Commission meetings and overtime costs.

Councilmember Arambula ascertained Directors are exempt employees and others are non-exempt.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones confirmed the projected costs are based on actual tracked costs; however some costs are shifted from the City Council to the Planning Commission, and a percentage is passed on to the applicant (increasing housing costs). He also inquired about the costs of an appeal with a burden to the general fund on first appeals.

Mayor Vasquez inquired if the actual cost to the City, which is not reimbursed, the 40% (\$18,000) of the estimated costs could be reduced. City Manager Romero answered there are unrecoverable costs from the General Plan, Climate Action Plan, non-applicant zoning changes, specific plans, etc. Mayor Vasquez suggested quarterly cost reports be provided to the City Council.

Councilmember J. Mendoza commented the City Council budget only includes their compensation so perhaps if the costs are attributed to one body, they should be attributed to both. City Manager Romero replied the costs are currently in the Development Services budget, and only recoverable costs are tracked for billing purposes.

City Attorney James Lough remarked State law requires applicant costs be tracked; and estimates are actually close since the larger amount is due to increased development.

**Action:** By consensus, the City Council agreed on the timeline to initiate the Planning Commission, the role/authority of Planning Commissioners will be instituted in Title 17 (Zoning Ordinance), and to allow all existing applications to proceed under the current practice with any new applications going to the Planning Commission per the new established authority.

### **City Council Oral Comments and Reports on Meetings Attended at the Expense of the City (GC 53232.3 (d))**

**Councilmember J. Mendoza** reported on attendance at the following meetings:

- February 7-9 SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) retreat
- February 12 League of California Cities with presentation from FACT (Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation)
- February 15 Heal Zone resident leadership team
- February 16 SANDAG Transportation Committee

**Councilmember Arambula** reported on attending a Metropolitan Transit System meeting.

**Mayor Pro Tem Jones** attended the following meetings:

- SANDAG retreat, traveling there in an autonomous vehicle
- Metro Wastewater Ad Hoc Committee

**Mayor Vasquez** attended the following meetings and events:

- SANDAG retreat
- Spoke at San Miguel Elementary School on Black History and leadership
- Concert at Lemon Grove Library with Martin Luther King Choir

**Department Director Reports (Non-Action Items)**

David De Vries, Development Services Director, reminded everyone of the Park Beautification & Clean-Up Event at 10:00 a.m. on February 24<sup>th</sup>, kicking off at Monterey Heights Park.

**Closed Session:**

**Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9**  
**Two cases**

**Action:** By consensus at 8:05 p.m., the City Council recessed to closed session for the above items.

**Closed Session Report:** There was no reportable action from closed session.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.